

Michigan Association for
Purebred Dogs



Michigan Hunting Dog
Federation



Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership
Position Paper

House Bills 5822, 5823 & 5824
Senate Bills 1136, 1137 & 1138

This series of bills is intended to regulate domestic, feral and wild swine from running at large on public and private property. It authorizes local animal control officers, law enforcement officers and **persons who possess a valid hunting license for any Michigan game** to kill a swine running at large on public and private property.

This drastic action is necessary to protect the Michigan agricultural industry and wildlife resources from the hazards of the rapidly increasing population of wild swine. A species that threaten the environment with uncontrolled infectious diseases of domestic livestock, the destruction of cash crops and habitat destruction that is the source of food for our abundant wildlife resources.

The Michigan Hunting Dog Federation and the Michigan Association for Pure Bred Dogs supports the enactment of these bills. We believe that our members who are avid hunters who spend considerable time seeking legitimate game on public and private land could be helpful in accomplishing the objectives of these bills.

Possibly the Department of Agriculture and /or the Department of Natural Resources and Environment could make a "hot-line" available for hunters to report sightings or shootings of feral swine and provide tissue samples for testing for the identification of disease entities.

If the population of feral swine gets too far out of control, the result will significantly increase the food source for other carnivorous species such as wolves, coyotes, and large wild cats. The final results will be a reduction in number of other herbivorous game species, both mammals and birds such as deer, elk, turkeys and quail.

There will be an additional threats to domestic dogs, cats, sheep, cattle and other livestock. Since the wild swine, with their tremendous reproductive capacity, would supply such an abundance source of food for predatory carnivores it could thus completely disrupt a balance of food resources among other species.

The unintended consequences of increasing or decreasing animal populations in one area can have serious and profound repercussions on the environment and Michigan's recreational resources.

The overall benefits to hunters by controlling the population of swine running at large will be significant.

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